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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent application of:)
Brian E. Lemoff et al.)
Serial No.: 09/873,127)
Filed: June 1, 2001)
For: *Non-Blocking Mechanical Fiber*)
Optic Matrix Switch)

Examiner: Sung H. Pak

Group Art Unit: 2874

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AMENDMENT

BOX AMENDMENT - NO FEE
Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the first Office Action mailed February 7, 2003, please make the following changes to the above-captioned patent application:

In the Specification

On page 6, line 16, please delete "." and insert - - - - .

Kindly delete the second paragraph on page 6, lines 15 through 29, of the Specification and replace it with the following paragraph as follows in clean form per 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(ii). An annotated version of this paragraph amendment is separately attached hereto in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(iii).

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The facets of the fibers 12 and 14 which are aligned in the switch 10 need not physically contact each other as explained later on in conjunction with Figs. 6A and 6B. However, in the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the four stages 16 of the input fibers 12, the five stages 18 of the output fibers 14, or both, have mechanical actuators A1 - A9 (Fig. 3) for moving the fibers along corresponding Z axes perpendicular to the X and Y axes to physically